CLAIMS

We claim:

1. An apparatus, comprising:

a mobile switching center that generates one or more triggered operations to a prepaid service node based on a connection with an intelligent peripheral component.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the prepaid service node comprises a prepaid first service node, wherein a second service node comprises the intelligent peripheral component;

wherein the second service node provides one or more services to a prepaid mobile communication device.

3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein upon receipt of a connect resource operation from the second service node, the mobile switching center triggers the connection with the intelligent peripheral component.

4. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the mobile switching center employs one or more of the one or more triggered operations to send to the prepaid first service node one or more service identifications that are associated with the second service node and employable by the prepaid first service node to calculate billing information based on use of the second service node by the prepaid mobile communication device.

5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the prepaid mobile communication device incurs a fee during use of the second service node;

wherein the mobile switching center sends the one or more service identifications to the prepaid first service node to facilitate a deduction of the fee from an account balance associated with the prepaid mobile communication device.

6. The apparatus of claim 4, in combination with the second service node;

wherein the second service node provides one or more services to the prepaid mobile communication device during a communication session;

wherein the second service node sends the one or more service identifications to the mobile switching center to indicate involvement of the second service node on the communication session;

7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the mobile switching center stores an indication of the one or more service identifications for delivery to the prepaid first service node upon disconnection of the communication session.

8. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the prepaid mobile communication device sends a dialed digits value to the mobile switching center to initiate a communication session, wherein the mobile switching center sends the dialed digits value to the prepaid first service node;

wherein the digits dialed value does not provide the prepaid first service node with an indication of one or more billable activities of the communication session;

wherein the mobile switching center sends the one or more service identifications to the prepaid first service node to indicate the one or more billable activities that occurred on the communication session.

9. The apparatus of claim 2, in combination with the second service node;

wherein upon registration of the prepaid mobile communication device, the mobile switching center arms one or more call triggers set to send event information to the prepaid first service node;

wherein the second service node indicates to the mobile switching center that the one or more call triggers are active for transactions with the second service node.

10. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein upon registration of the prepaid mobile communication device, the mobile switching center arms a disconnect trigger set to send event information to the prepaid first service node;

wherein upon activation of the disconnect trigger, the mobile switching center sends a disconnect message to the prepaid first service node;

wherein the disconnect message carries one or more service identifications that are associated with the second service node to the prepaid first service node.

11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the disconnect message provides an indication to the prepaid service node of a duration of the connection with the intelligent peripheral component.

12. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein upon receipt of a call termination request from the prepaid first service node, the mobile switching center sends a disconnect message to the prepaid first service node to pass one or more service identifications that are associated with the second service node to the prepaid first service node.

13. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the second service node comprises a directory assistance service node, wherein the one or more service identifications comprise a directory assistance service identification associated with the directory assistance service node;

wherein the prepaid mobile communication device sends a dialed digits value to the mobile switching center to initiate a communication session, wherein the mobile switching center sends the dialed digits value to the prepaid first service node;

wherein the digits dialed value does not provide the prepaid first service node with an indication of the use of the directory assistance service node by the prepaid mobile communication device;

wherein the directory assistance service node sends the directory assistance service identification to the mobile switching center to indicate the use of the directory assistance service node by the prepaid mobile communication device;

wherein the mobile switching center sends the directory assistance service identification to the prepaid first service node to facilitate a deduction of an amount from an account balance associated with the prepaid mobile communication device based on the use of the directory assistance service node.

14. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the mobile switching center receives a service identification that is associated with the prepaid service node;

wherein the mobile switching center compares an address associated with the service identification and a trigger destination address for a destination to send the service identification;

wherein the mobile switching center determines to not send the service identification to the trigger destination address if the address associated with the service identification is the same as the trigger destination address.

15. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the mobile switching center receives a request for a status of a communication session, wherein the request comprises a service identification;

wherein the mobile switching center returns an indication of the status of the communication session;

wherein the mobile switching center stores the service identification to later send to the prepaid service node.

16. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the mobile switching center employs International Telecommunication Union signaling in accordance with International Telecommunication Union standards.

17. A method, comprising the steps of:

connecting a prepaid service node with an intelligent peripheral component; and

sending one or more service identifications in a triggered operation to a prepaid service node for billing the prepaid mobile communication device for connection with the intelligent peripheral component.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the prepaid service node comprises a prepaid first service node, wherein a second service node comprises the intelligent peripheral component, wherein the second service node provides one or more services to the prepaid mobile communication device during a communication session that involves the second service node;

wherein the step of sending the one or more service identifications in the triggered operation to the prepaid service node for billing the prepaid mobile communication device for connection with the intelligent peripheral component comprises the steps of:

receiving, from the second service node, the one or more service identifications that indicate involvement of the second service node on the communication session; and

encountering a disconnect trigger for the connection with the intelligent peripheral component which sends a disconnect message to the prepaid first service node, wherein the disconnect message carries the one or more service identifications to the prepaid first service node.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein the step of sending the one or more service identifications in the triggered operation to the prepaid service node for billing the prepaid mobile communication device for connection with the intelligent peripheral component comprises the steps of:

arming one or more call triggers for a communication session that involves the prepaid mobile communication device and the intelligent peripheral component; and

sending the triggered operation to the prepaid service node upon activation of one or more of the one or more call triggers.

20. The method of claim 17, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a dialed digits value from the prepaid mobile communication device that initiates a communication session; and

sending the dialed digits value to the prepaid service node, wherein the digits dialed value does not provide the prepaid service node with an indication of one or more billable activities of the communication session;

wherein the step of sending the one or more service identifications in the triggered operation to the prepaid service node for billing the prepaid mobile communication device for connection with the intelligent peripheral component comprises the step of:

sending the one or more service identifications to the prepaid service node to indicate the one or more billable activities that occurred on the communication session.

21. The method of claim 17, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a service identification that is associated with the prepaid service node;

comparing an address associated with the service identification and a trigger destination address for a destination to send the service identification;

determining to not send the service identification to the trigger destination address if the address associated with the service identification is the same as the trigger destination address.

22. An article, comprising:

one or more computer-readable signal-bearing media;

means in the one or more media for connecting a prepaid service node with an intelligent peripheral component; and

means in the one or more media for sending one or more service identifications in a triggered operation to a prepaid service node for billing the prepaid mobile communication device for connection with the intelligent peripheral component.

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